

Psalm 83 and the Coming Wave of Attacks Against Israel

by Jeremy James

The Bible has numerous prophecies relating to the future of Israel, many of which have yet to be fulfilled. Psalm 83 is one such prophecy.

It describes a time when all of the nations surrounding Israel – every one of which is now Islamic – will conspire together to destroy her.

Both the Koran (the recorded will of Allah) and the Hadith (the sayings of Muhammad) demand the subjugation or murder of all Jews (and Christians, too, by the way). We know that the events described in the Psalm have not yet reached their full prophetic expression because the previous attacks by an Islamic alliance against Israel (in 1948, 1967 and 1973) did not include some of the modern enemies mentioned in the Psalm, notably Turkey, Iran and the Gulf States. [The text of Psalm 83 is given below.]

The following table gives a flavour of the confrontation in prospect and the political entities that are now conspiring to destroy this tiny nation:

	Ancient nation cited in Psalm 83	Corresponding modern nation	Avowed modern enemy
1	<i>The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;</i>	<u>Edomites</u> Descendants of Esau, brother of Jacob. Also called Edom (meaning <i>red</i> , after he bartered his birthright for a bowl of red stew). Their territory was known in Roman times as Idumaea. The modern equivalent of SW Jordan and part of the Negev.	Muslim Brotherhood. Certain Palestinian groups.
2	<i>The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;</i>	<u>Ishmaelites</u> Descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham by Hagar and half-brother of Isaac. Loosely equivalent to the modern Arab race and, specifically, the people of Arabia .	Wahabi sect of Islam.
3	<i>The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;</i>	<u>Moabites</u> Descendants of Moab, son of Lot by his eldest daughter. Occupied territory east of the Dead Sea, roughly equivalent to central Jordan .	Muslim Brotherhood. Certain Palestinian groups.

4	<i>The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;</i>	<u>Hagrites</u> Generally accepted to be a reference to the descendants of Hagar, who was Abraham's Egyptian-born concubine. Could be a reference to modern Egypt .	Muslim Brotherhood.
5	<i>Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;</i>	<u>Gebalites</u> Residents of Gebal, a coastal city north of Beirut, and known to the Greeks as Byblos. Equivalent to northern Lebanon .	Hezbollah. Certain Palestinian groups.
6	<i>Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;</i>	<u>Ammonites</u> Descendants of Ammon, son of Lot by his eldest daughter. Occupied territory east of the Jordan river, roughly equivalent to northern Jordan .	Muslim Brotherhood. Certain Palestinian groups.
7	<i>Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;</i>	<u>Amalekites</u> An ancient tribe, believed to have incorporated descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. Occupied territory that appeared to stretch from Sinai in modern Egypt to southern Jordan and possibly part of northern Arabia .	Muslim Brotherhood. Wahabi sect of Islam.
8	<i>Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;</i>	<u>Philistines</u> An ancient people who occupied the southern coastal strip of modern Israel, which includes Gaza .	Hamas. Fatah. Muslim Brotherhood.
9	<i>Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;</i>	<u>Tyreneans</u> Inhabitants of an ancient Phoenician city on the coast of modern Lebanon .	Hezbollah. Certain Palestinian groups.
10	<i>Assyria also has joined with them;</i>	<u>Assyrians</u> At its most extensive, the Assyrian empire covered much of the territory known today as Iraq , Syria , Lebanon , Jordan , northern Egypt , western Iran , eastern Turkey , northern Arabia and the Gulf States .	Muslim Brotherhood. Iranian Ruling Regime. Hezbollah. Hamas. Islamic Jihad. Turkish Islamists.

All the groups in the righthand column above are dedicated to the destruction of the modern state of Israel and the conquest of her territory. They are the modern equivalent to the enemies of Israel described in Psalm 83 “who said, Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession.”

The ever-increasing co-operation between the enemies of Israel, as well as the considerable increase in their respective military power, seem destined to bring about, before very long, the events described in Psalm 83.

How does the LORD describe His response? He has stated again and again that the land of Israel, “the pastures of God,” belong to Him alone. As His chosen, albeit wayward people, the Jews are allowed to settle there and to treat it as their own. He has made it quite plain that no other people or nation has that right. The Arabs and the Islamic peoples generally have more than enough land and enough wealth. The Lord has been very generous to them, but they are not satisfied. They intend to bring His wrath upon themselves simply to obtain this tiny strip of land and add it to the vast tracts that they already possess but largely neglect.

Note too that the Word of God includes the following remarkable statement: “And those who hate You have lifted up their head.” This makes it abundantly clear that the god of Islam is NOT the God of the Bible.

The Psalmist calls upon the Lord to deal with the enemies of Israel as He had done in former times – “Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.”

He refers to Zebah and Zalmunna, two kings of Midian, who boasted that they would take possession of the pastures of God. Gideon set out after them with his army. Along the way he asked the people of the town of Succoth to give bread to his men, but they refused, claiming that he had yet to subdue Zebah and Zalmunna. The implication here, it would seem, was that Gideon’s ambition exceeded his authority. He vowed to pursue the enemy and, having executed Zebah and Zalmunna, to return and punish the people of Succoth for their arrogance – which he duly did:

“And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.” (Judges 8:16)

The residents of Penuel, who gave the same response to Gideon as the people of Succoth, suffered an even more severe punishment for, on his return to Penuel, he “slew the men of the city.”

The Bible notes that, at the time that Zebah and Zalmunna were captured and executed for their crimes, Gideon took the ornaments that hung about the necks of their camels. Strong's concordance, H7720, tells us that the Hebrew word translated as 'ornaments' in English literally meant 'little moons,' which are akin to the crescent moons seen today throughout Islam. The crescent moon, which represents the moon god Allah, is probably the principal symbol of Jihad and Islamic power in the world today. Psalm 83 is telling us, therefore, that in destroying Zebah and Zalmunna, Gideon was destroying the representatives of the same spiritual entity that now empowers Islam.

Gideon prefigures Christ Jesus and the incredible work that he will do when he returns.

Many today, among the nations of the world, are like the people of Succoth and Penuel. They withhold their goodwill from Israel and omit all mention of her in their prayers, if they pray at all. They believe that Israel's ambition exceeds her authority, but in so doing they forget that the Lord is sovereign, that he honours all of his promises and that his word will prevail. Scripture is telling us that those who persist in taking the same attitude to Israel as did the people of Succoth and Penuel will also be held to account.

In this age of great apostasy and deception, there is no middle ground. The promise that the Lord made to Abraham has never been rescinded – "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (Genesis 12:3)

Israel is the focus of everything that is happening in the world today. Satan is determined to destroy her and, in so doing, to prove God wrong. If he can do that, he reasons, then God has no moral right to condemn him to the lake of fire.

If you have not already come to Christ and, in true repentance, accepted him as your Lord and Saviour, then I would invite you to reflect humbly on your relationship with the Creator, "the Most High over all the earth," and ask Him to guide you in the right direction in this fateful hour.

Psalm 83

- (1) Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace,
and do not be still, O God!
- (2) For behold, Your enemies make a tumult;
And those who hate You have lifted up their head.
- (3) They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted
together against Your sheltered ones.
- (4) They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation,
that the name of Israel may be remembered no more."
- (5) For they have consulted together with one consent;
They form a confederacy against You:

- (6) The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;
- (7) Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
- (8) Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah
- (9) Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera, as with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,
- (10) Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on the earth.
- (11) Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
- (12) Who said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession."
- (13) O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind!
- (14) As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire,
- (15) So pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm.
- (16) Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD.
- (17) Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,
- (18) That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

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